

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (**Currently Amended**) A composition in the form of a dry powder and which comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, ~~and~~
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium; ~~with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.~~

Claim 13 (**Previously Added**) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

Claim 14 (**Previously Added**) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound comprises an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid.

Claim 15 (**Previously Added**) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 16 (**Canceled**)

Claim 17 (**Currently Amended**) The composition as claimed in claim 12 ~~16~~, wherein the xanthine is caffeine.

Claim 18 (**Previously Added**) The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compound is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

Claim 19 (**Currently Amended**) A method of preparing a composition in the form of a dry powder and which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, ~~and~~
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine.

and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which process comprises either mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder, or dispersing/dissolving the above components, either sequentially or simultaneously, in a solvent, subsequently removing the said solvent so as to form a solid mixture and then pulverizing the said solid mixture to produce a homogeneous dry powder, ~~with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.~~

Claim 20 (**Currently Amended**) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound and a xanthine which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, ~~with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.~~

Claim 21 (**Currently Amended**) A method of preparing a dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, which method comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, ~~and~~
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine.

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, ~~with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.~~

Claim 22 (**Currently Amended**) A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution of at least one biologically active compound which comprises a carboxylic acid and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, or as prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a dry powder composition which composition comprises:

- a) at least one membrane lipid, ~~and~~
- b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid, and
- c) a xanthine,

and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration, ~~with the proviso that the carboxylic acid is not retinoic acid.~~